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## Description

**[0001]** The present invention relates to a expansion joint to bridge an expansion gap between two parts of concrete slabs used in floor construction, especially in the manufacture of concrete floors such as for example in industrial floors. Such expansion joints are evidently required to take up the inevitable shrinkage process of the concrete and to assure that the floor elements can expand or contract such as for example occur by temperature fluctuations and resulting in a horizontal displacement of the floor panels vis-à-vis one another.

**[0002]** In addition, and given the fact that such floors are often subjected to high loads, further load transfer elements are typically included in the aforementioned joint profiles to assure that the vertical load on one floor panel is transmitted to the adjacent floor panel in an optimal way and thereby preventing a vertical tilting of the floor panels with respect to each other. However, when driving over such an expansion joint with heavily loaded vehicles such as forklifts, which often have particularly hard Vulkollan wheels, the presence of such load transfer elements cannot prevent damage of the upper circumferential edges of the slabs or to the wheels, due to the undesirable shock of the vehicle when passing the groove-like gap between the floor elements. This is especially due to the fact that the joint profile making up the edges of the floor elements is made of steel and therefore much harder than the commonly soft outer circumference surface of the wheels.

**[0003]** In an effort to address the drawback of the groove-like gap in the existing joint profiles, alternatives have been presented wherein the edges of the floor members by means of coggings interlock with one another. See for example DE 10 2009 054028 A1,

**[0004]** AT113488, JP2-296903, DE3533077 or WO2007144008. However, in as far each of said arrangements ensures that the wheels when leaving one edge are already supported on the boundary of the other; the mere presence of such cogging interlocks is insufficient to prevent damage at the upper circumferential edges of the floor elements. Vertical tilting of the floor members may still result in differences in height between the plates which gives rise to edges, further shocks and eventual damages to the floor. Consequently, also in these interlocking joint profiles load transfer elements will be required to assure that the vertical load on one floor panel is transmitted to the adjacent floor panel in an optimal way and thereby preventing a vertical tilting of the floor panels.

**[0005]** Such load transfer elements come in different shapes and embodiments, such as for example wedge-shaped dowels (DE 102007020816); horizontal grooves and protrusions cooperating with one another (BE1015453, BE1016147); plate dowels (US5674028, EP1584746, US2008222984) or bar dowels (EP0410079, US6502359, WO03069067, EP0609783). Irrespective of their embodiment, said load transfer ele-

ments needs to be incorporated in the floor deck adding not only to a minimum thickness for the floor, but also to additional material to be used and to complexity in construction.

**[0006]** In addition, metal interlocking end plates such as shown in AT113488 and JP-2-29603, still result in an abrupt change of expansion coefficient at the boundary of the floor slabs. As a consequence, these end plates tend to loosen over time with floor damage at the boundary between the concrete floor slabs at the metal end plates.

**[0007]** It is therefore an object of the invention to provide a structural joint where no further load transfer elements are required, but still addressing the problems outlined hereinbefore.

**[0008]** This object is achieved by an expansion joint according to appended claim 1. The J expansion joint itself structurally realizes load transfer. ,

**[0009]** Within the context of the present invention, and as evident from the accompanying figures, the vertical orientation of the corrugated plates, is vertical with respect the floor surface, i.e. the plates are standing upright, i.e. perpendicular, with respect to the floor surface. In other words, with their thin side facing the floor surface.

**[0010]** Preferred embodiments are defined in the appended dependent claims.

**[0011]** The edge of a slab of concrete poured against the expansion joint of the present invention will have an denticulated upper portion and a denticulated lower portion both denticulations being out of phase to one another and interlocking with the denticulated upper and lower portion edge of the adjacent slab. In this way the adjacent slabs are fixed vertically to one another, but through the presence of the expansion joint, horizontal displacement of the adjacent slabs is still possible. Load transfer is realized through the dents at the edges of the concrete slabs and over an expansion width determined by the amplitude of the corrugations in the corrugated plates used in the expansion joint.

**[0012]** Other advantages and characteristics of the invention will become clear from the following description reference being made to the annexed drawings.

**[0013]** Herein is :

**Fig. 1** A perspective top view of an expansion joint not according to the present invention.

**Fig. 2** A perspective bottom view of an expansion joint not according to the present invention.

**Fig. 3** A frontal perspective view of one of the concrete slabs poured against the expansion joint according to the invention, showing the antiphase denticulated edges of the upper (2) and lower (3) portion of said slab.

**Fig. 4** A top view of an expansion joint according to the invention. Within this figure the top portion of one

of the concrete slabs is not shown, to expose how the dents (16) of the two concrete slabs interlock with one another.

**Fig. 5** A frontal view of an expansion joint according to the invention, in an open position. In this embodiment the joint comprises two pairs of corrugated plates. One pair (4, 6) in the upper portion (2) and one pair (5, 17) in the lower portion (3). Plates (4) and (5) are connected with one another through a first binding member (8) and plates (6) and (17) are connected to one another through a second binding member (8). In this embodiment, the dowels (7) to anchor the expansion joint in the concrete slabs consist of rods longitudinally welded to the corrugated plates making up the expansion joint.

**Fig. 6a** A frontal view of an expansion joint according to the invention, having continuous bridging dowels (7) that longitudinally extend over the full length of the expansion joint, and which are connected to the upper and lower portion of the expansion joint.

**Fig. 6b** A perspective top side view of an expansion joint according to the present invention. Showing the continuous bridging dowel (7) connected at regular intervals (19) to the upper and lower portion, and the drop plate (18) positioned in between the corrugated plates at the lower portion of the expansion joint.

**[0014]** With reference to figures 1 and 2, the expansion joint has an upper (2) and lower (3) portion each comprising a vertically oriented corrugated plate (4, 5), wherein the corrugated plates of the upper and lower portion are out of phase to one another.

**[0015]** Within the context of the present invention there is no particular limitation as to the corrugation of the plates, in principle any alternating form is suitable, including wave, zigzag or dent forms. Where the amplitude and width of the corrugation between the upper and lower portion may be different, in one embodiment the corrugation of the upper and lower plates will be the same. In a particular embodiment the corrugation will consist of a waveform. In a more particular embodiment the corrugation of the upper and lower plate will be the same and consisting of a waveform.

**[0016]** The upper and lower corrugated plates (4, 5) will be in substantially the same lateral plane, but out of phase to one another. In particular *in antiphase* to one another. Said upper (4) and lower (5) corrugated plates are secured to one another through a binding member (8) consisting of a metal sheet, more in particular a thin steel sheet, bound to both the upper (4) and lower (5) corrugated plates, e.g. by welding (10), forced coupling with adhesive or other processes. The presence of this binding member not only strengthens the connection between the upper (4) and lower (5) corrugated plates, but also assists in shielding eventual cross-flow of concrete

from one side of the expansion joint to the other side when pouring the concrete slabs.

**[0017]** The expansion joint further comprises anchoring dowels (7) to anchor the device in the slabs. The anchoring dowels may have any shape typically used. In general, the geometry of these anchoring elements does not modify the features of the invention. Also in the embodiments of Figures 1 & 2, the anchoring dowels (7) may be anchoring elements of any suitable shape or size. Evidently, said anchoring dowels are present on one side of both the upper and lower corrugated plates to anchor the joint profile in the adjacent slabs. In an even further embodiment the anchoring dowels may bridge, and are accordingly connected to, the upper and lower portion of the expansion joint. With reference to Figure 6, in a particular embodiment such an anchoring dowel bridging the upper and lower portion, consists of a dowel longitudinally extended over the full length of the expansion joint and meandering over the upper and lower portion of said joint. It is firmly connected at regular intervals (19) to both the upper and lower portion of the expansion joint, e.g. by welding, forced coupling with adhesive or other processes. Such continuous bridging dowel provides further stability and torsion strength to the expansion joint.

**[0018]** Thus in a further embodiment the present invention provides a continuous bridging dowel (7), connected at regular intervals (19) to an upper and lower portion of the side faces of the expansion joint and characterized in that it longitudinally extends and meanders over the full length of the expansion joint. In particular to the upper and lower portion of an expansion joint according to the present invention.

**[0019]** With reference to figures 6a and 6c, in a particular embodiment the continuous bridging anchoring dowel is further characterized in that, in between the consecutive connection points (19) to the respective upper and lower portion of the expansion joint, the dowel is V-shaped when viewed from a cross sectional front view (Figure 6a) and when viewed from a top view (Figure 6c). In other words, in a particular embodiment the continuous bridging dowel is further characterized in that in between each of said connection points and when viewed in cross sectional front view or top view, the bridging dowel is V-shaped.

**[0020]** As already explained hereinbefore, the concrete edge on the other side of the joint are protected by (a) second corrugated plate(s) (6), (17) that fits within the undulations (11) of the vertically oriented corrugated plate of the upper (4) portion, and/or the undulations of the vertically oriented corrugated plate of the lower (5) portion. At one side, this second corrugated plate(s) (6), (17) have further anchoring dowels (7) to anchor this second joint profile in the adjacent slab. This further anchoring dowel may again be an anchoring element of any suitable shape or size, including the continuous bridging dowel as described hereinbefore. As such the corrugated plates are each anchored in a slab part separated by the joint. In order to allow that the expansion joint comprising

the second corrugated plate(s) is (are) easily installed, plates (4) and (6) are provisionally connected to one another, i.e. meaning that these plates are not firmly attached e.g. by welding, but are fixed together with sufficiently strong attachment means (9) such as bolts, clips or other adequate means, to allow the device to be installed easily. Within said particular embodiment wherein the expansion joints comprise two pair of corrugated plates, one pair (4, 6) in the upper portion and one pair (5, 17) in the lower portion, the corresponding upper and lower members of said pairs will be in substantially the same lateral plane, but out of phase to one another. In particular *in antiphase* to one another. Said upper and lower members are secured to one another, e.g. by welding (10), forced coupling with adhesive or other processes.

[0021] In other words, and with reference to Figure 5, the upper corrugated plate (4) and its corresponding lower corrugated plate (5) will be in substantially the same lateral plane, secured to one another, but out of phase to one another; and the upper corrugated plate (6) and its corresponding lower corrugated plate (17) will be in substantially the same lateral plane, secured to one another, but out of phase to one another. In particular the plates (4, 5) and (6, 17) will be *in antiphase* to one another. Optionally, and in analogy with one of the foregoing embodiments, this embodiment may further comprise a binding member (8) present between, and secured to said corresponding upper and lower members. As in the foregoing embodiment this binding member (8) typically consisting of a metal sheet, more in particular a thin steel sheet, bound to both the upper (4, 6) and lower (5, 17) corrugated plates, e.g. by welding (10), forced coupling with adhesive or other processes. The presence of this binding member not only strengthens the connection between the upper (4, 6) and lower (5, 17) corrugated plates, but also assists in shielding eventual cross-flow of concrete from one side of the expansion joint to the other side when pouring the concrete slabs.

[0022] The corrugated plates (4, 5, 6, 17) used in the expansion profile of the present invention are preferably formed of a substantially rigid, metallic material, more preferably steel or stainless steel. As wear resistance of the concrete edges is predominant required at the upper portion, the corrugated plates of the upper portion are preferably made more wear resistant, such as using a different material or heavier (thicker - see Figure 5) when compared to the corrugated plates in the lower portion. Accordingly, in an even further embodiment, the expansion joints as described herein are further characterized in that the corrugated plate(s) in the upper portion are more wear resistant when compared to the corrugated plate(s) in the lower portion.

[0023] As will be apparent to skilled artisan, said embodiments wherein the lower portion comprises a pair of corrugated plates has certain benefits when used in the manufacture of a floor member comprising said joints. The pair of corrugated plates in the lower portion ensures

that the joints remain upright when placing. It further creates the opportunity of introducing a drop plate (18) between said pair of corrugated plates in the lower portion, thus extending the range in the thickness of floor member that can be made using the expansion joints of the present invention (see also Figure 6) It is thus an object of the present invention to include a further drop plate to said expansion joints as described herein and having a pair of corrugated plates in the lower portion.

[0024] With reference to figures 3 and 4, the edges of concrete slabs poured against the expansion joint as described herein will have an denticulated upper portion (12) and a denticulated lower portion (13) both denticulations being out of phase to one another in accordance with the phase shift of the upper (4) and lower (5) corrugated plate in the expansion joint, and accordingly interlock with the denticulated upper (14) and lower portion edge (15) of the adjacent slab. The dents (16) thus created in the adjacent concrete slabs will at the one hand realize the vertical fixation of floor and on the other hand allow a quasi continuous load transfer from one side to the other. Evidently, and as already mentioned hereinbefore, the amplitude and width of the corrugation in the lower (5) corrugated plate of the expansion joint will determine the maximally supported expansion of the expansion joint. The moment the denticulated upper portion edge of the concrete slab is retracted beyond the denticulated lower portion of the adjacent slab, the latter no longer supports the former and vertical fixation and load transfer are lost. Where there are no particular limitation to the amplitude and shape of the corrugations in said plate, typical application in the manufacture of industrial concrete floors requires an expansion range of up to about 50 mm, in particular up to about 35 mm; more in particular up to about 20 mm. Consequently the amplitude of the corrugation should be such that upon maximal expansion of the expansion joint, the dents of the lower portion of the adjacent slab still support the dents of the upper portion of the opposing slab. Within the aforementioned range, the amplitude of the corrugation will be from about 25 mm to about 75mm; in particular from about 25 mm to about 55 mm; more in particular from about 25 mm to about 35 mm.

[0025] In one embodiment said pair of dividing members in the upper portion consists of a pair of vertically oriented corrugated plates (4) and (6) wherein said pair of corrugated plates is out of phase with the pair of corrugated plates (5) and (17) in the lower portion. Again, these plates are secured to one another, either directly or by means of a binding member (8) as described hereinbefore.

[0026] Again and in analogy with the previously described embodiments, the vertical orientation of the dividing members in the upper portion is their orientation with respect to the floor surface, i.e. the plates are standing upright, i.e. perpendicular, with respect to the floor surface. In other words, with their thin side facing the floor surface.

## Claims

1. An expansion joint to bridge and expansion gap between two adjacent concrete floor slabs, the joint having, in use, an upper (2) and lower (3) portion, wherein the upper portion provides a first and a second dividing member (4, 6), the dividing members consisting of two vertically oriented corrugated plates having undulations that fit in one another and wherein the lower portion comprises a first vertically oriented plate (5), the vertical orientation being perpendicular with respect to the floor surface when in use, the joint further comprising anchoring dowels (7) and **characterized in that** the first vertically oriented plate (5) of the lower portion is a corrugated plate (5), the first (4) dividing member and the first lower corrugated plate (5) are substantially in the same lateral plane and are secured to one another through a binding member (8) consisting of a metal sheet; the corrugated plates of (4, 6) of the upper portion are out of phase to the corrugated plate (5) of the lower portion; and wherein said anchoring dowels (7) present on one side of both the upper and the lower corrugated plates (4, 5, 6) are configured to anchor the expansion joint in the adjacent slabs.
2. The expansion joint according to any one of claim 1, wherein the lower portion (3) further comprises a second vertically oriented corrugated plate (17) that fits within the undulations (11) of the first vertically oriented corrugated plate (5) of the lower portion; wherein the second dividing member (6) and the second lower corrugated plate (17) are in substantially the same lateral plane and secured to one another through a second binding member (8) consisting of a metal sheet and wherein the corrugated plates (4, 6) of the upper portion are out of phase to the corrugated plates (5, 17) of the lower portion.
3. The expansion joint according to claims 1 or 2, wherein the corrugation of the upper and lower plates is the same.
4. The expansion joint according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the corrugation consists of a wave-form.
5. The expansion joint according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the first corrugated plates (4, 5) of the upper (2) and lower (3) portion are in antiphase.
6. The expansion joint according to claim 1, wherein said corrugated plates (4, 6) of the upper portion (2) are provisionally connected to one another.
7. The expansion joint according to any one of claims 2 to 4, wherein the dividing members (4, 6) of the upper portion (2) and the corrugated plates (5, 17)

of the lower portion (3) are formed of steel.

8. The expansion joint according to any one of claims 2 to 4, wherein the corrugated plates (4, 6) of the upper portion (2), are formed of a more wear resistant material when compared to the corrugated plates (5, 17) of the lower portion (3).
9. The expansion joint according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the anchoring dowels consist of a continuous bridging dowel (7), connected at regular intervals (19) to an upper and lower portion of the side faces of the expansion joint, wherein the continuous bridging dowel (7) longitudinally extends and meanders over the full length of the expansion joint.

## Patentansprüche

1. Eine Dehnungsverbindung zur Überbrückung einer Dehnungsfuge zwischen zwei benachbarten Betonbodenplatten, die Verbindung weist im Gebrauch einen oberen (2) und einen unteren (3) Abschnitt auf, wobei der obere Abschnitt ein erstes und ein zweites Trennelement (4, 6) bereitstellt, die Trennelemente bestehen aus zwei vertikal ausgerichteten gewellten Platten mit Wellungen, die ineinander passen, und wobei der untere Abschnitt eine erste vertikal ausgerichtete Platte (5) umfasst, die vertikale Ausrichtung im Gebrauch senkrecht in Bezug auf die Bodenoberfläche ist, wobei die Verbindung ferner Verankerungsdübel (7) aufweist, und **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die erste vertikal ausgerichtete Platte (5) des unteren Abschnitts eine gewellte Platte (5) ist, das erste (4) Trennelement und die erste untere gewellte Platte (5) im Wesentlichen in der gleichen seitlichen Ebene liegen und durch ein Verbindungselement (8), bestehend aus einem Metallblech, aneinander befestigt sind; wobei die gewellten Platten (4, 6) des oberen Abschnitts außer Phase zu der gewellten Platte (5) des unteren Abschnitts sind; und wobei die Verankerungsdübel (7), die auf einer Seite sowohl der oberen als auch der unteren gewellten Platte (4, 5, 6) vorhanden sind, so konfiguriert sind, dass sie die Dehnungsverbindung in den benachbarten Platten verankern.
2. Die Dehnungsverbindung nach einem der Ansprüche 1, wobei der untere Teil (3) weiter eine zweite vertikal orientierte gewellte Platte (17) aufweist, die in die Wellungen (11) der ersten vertikal orientierten gewellten Platte (5) des unteren Teils passt; wobei das zweite Trennelement (6) und die zweite untere gewellte Platte (17) im Wesentlichen in der gleichen seitlichen Ebene liegen und durch ein zweites Verbindungselement (8), bestehend aus einem Metallblech, aneinander befestigt sind und wobei die gewellten Platten (4, 6) des oberen Teils außer Phase

zu den gewellten Platten (5, 17) des unteren Teils sind.

3. Die Dehnungsverbindung nach Anspruch 1 oder 2, wobei die Wellung der oberen und der unteren Platte die gleiche ist. 5
4. Die Dehnungsverbindung nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 3, wobei die Wellung aus einer Wellenform besteht. 10
5. Die Dehnungsverbindung nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 4, wobei die ersten gewellten Platten (4, 5) des oberen (2) und unteren (3) Teils gegenphasig sind. 15
6. Die Dehnungsverbindung nach Anspruch 1, wobei die gewellten Platten (4, 6) des oberen Teils (2) provisorisch miteinander verbunden sind. 20
7. Die Dehnungsverbindung nach einem der Ansprüche 2 bis 4, wobei die Trennelemente (4, 6) des oberen Teils (2) und die gewellten Platten (5, 17) des unteren Teils (3) aus Stahl bestehen. 25
8. Die Dehnungsverbindung nach einem der Ansprüche 2 bis 4, wobei die gewellten Platten (4, 6) des oberen Teils (2) aus einem verschleißfesteren Material als die gewellten Platten (5, 17) des unteren Teils (3) bestehen. 30
9. Die Dehnungsverbindung nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 6, wobei die Verankerungsdübel aus einem durchgehenden Überbrückungsdübel (7) bestehen, der in regelmäßigen Abständen (19) mit einem oberen und unteren Teil der Seitenflächen der Dehnungsverbindung verbunden ist, wobei sich der durchgehende Überbrückungsdübel (7) in Längsrichtung erstreckt und über die gesamte Länge der Dehnungsverbindung mäanderförmig verläuft. 35 40

## Revendications

1. Joint de dilatation pour combler un espace de dilatation entre deux dalles de plancher en béton adjacentes, le joint ayant, en utilisation, une partie supérieure (2) et une partie inférieure (3), dans lequel la partie supérieure prévoit des premier et deuxième éléments de séparation (4, 6), les éléments de séparation sont constitués de deux plaques ondulées orientées verticalement ayant des ondulations qui s'emboîtent et dans lequel la partie inférieure comprend une première plaque orientée verticalement (5), l'orientation verticale étant perpendiculaire à la surface de plancher en utilisation, le joint comprenant en outre des goujons d'ancrage (7) et **caractérisé en ce que** la première plaque orientée verticalement (5) de la partie inférieure est une plaque ondulée (5), le premier élément de séparation (4) et la première plaque ondulée inférieure (5) sont sensiblement dans le même plan latéral et sont fixés l'un à l'autre par l'intermédiaire d'un élément de liaison (8) constitué d'une feuille métallique ; les plaques ondulées (4, 6) de la partie supérieure ne sont pas en phase avec la plaque ondulée (5) de la partie inférieure ; et dans lequel lesdits goujons d'ancrage (7) sont présents sur un côté des plaques ondulées supérieure et inférieure (4, 5, 6) et sont configurés pour ancrer le joint de dilatation dans les dalles adjacentes. 45 50
2. Joint de dilatation selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la partie inférieure (3) en outre comprend une deuxième plaque ondulée orientée verticalement (17) qui s'ajuste à l'intérieur des ondulations (11) de la première plaque ondulée orientée verticalement (5) de la partie inférieure ; dans lequel l'élément de séparation (6) et la deuxième plaque ondulée inférieure (17) sont dans sensiblement le même plan latéral et sont fixés l'un à l'autre par l'intermédiaire d'un deuxième élément de liaison (8) constitué d'une feuille métallique et dans lequel les plaques ondulées (4, 6) de la partie supérieure ne sont pas en phase avec les plaques ondulées (5, 17) de la partie inférieure. 55
3. Joint de dilatation selon la revendication 1 ou 2, dans lequel l'ondulation des plaques supérieure et inférieure est la même.
4. Joint de dilatation selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 3, dans lequel l'ondulation est constituée d'une forme d'onde.
5. Joint de dilatation selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 4 dans lequel les premières plaques ondulées (4, 5) de la partie supérieure (2) et de la partie inférieure (3) sont en antiphasé.
6. Joint de dilatation selon la revendication 1, dans lequel lesdites plaques ondulées (4, 6) de la partie supérieure (2) sont provisoirement reliées l'une à l'autre.
7. Joint de dilatation selon l'une quelconque des revendications 2 à 4, dans lequel les moyens de séparation (4, 6) de la partie supérieure (2) et les plaques ondulées (5, 17) de la partie inférieure (3) sont constitués d'acier.
8. Joint de dilatation selon l'une quelconque des revendications 2 à 4, dans lequel les plaques ondulées (4, 6) de la partie supérieure (2) sont constituées d'un matériau plus résistant à l'usure que celui des plaques ondulées (5, 17) de la partie inférieure (3).

9. Joint de dilatation selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 6, dans lequel les goujons d'ancrage sont constitués d'un goujon de pontage continu (7) relié à intervalles réguliers (19) à une partie supérieure et une partie inférieure des faces latérales du joint de dilatation, dans lequel le goujon de pontage continu (7) s'étend longitudinalement et serpente sur toute la longueur du joint de dilatation.

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Figure 1

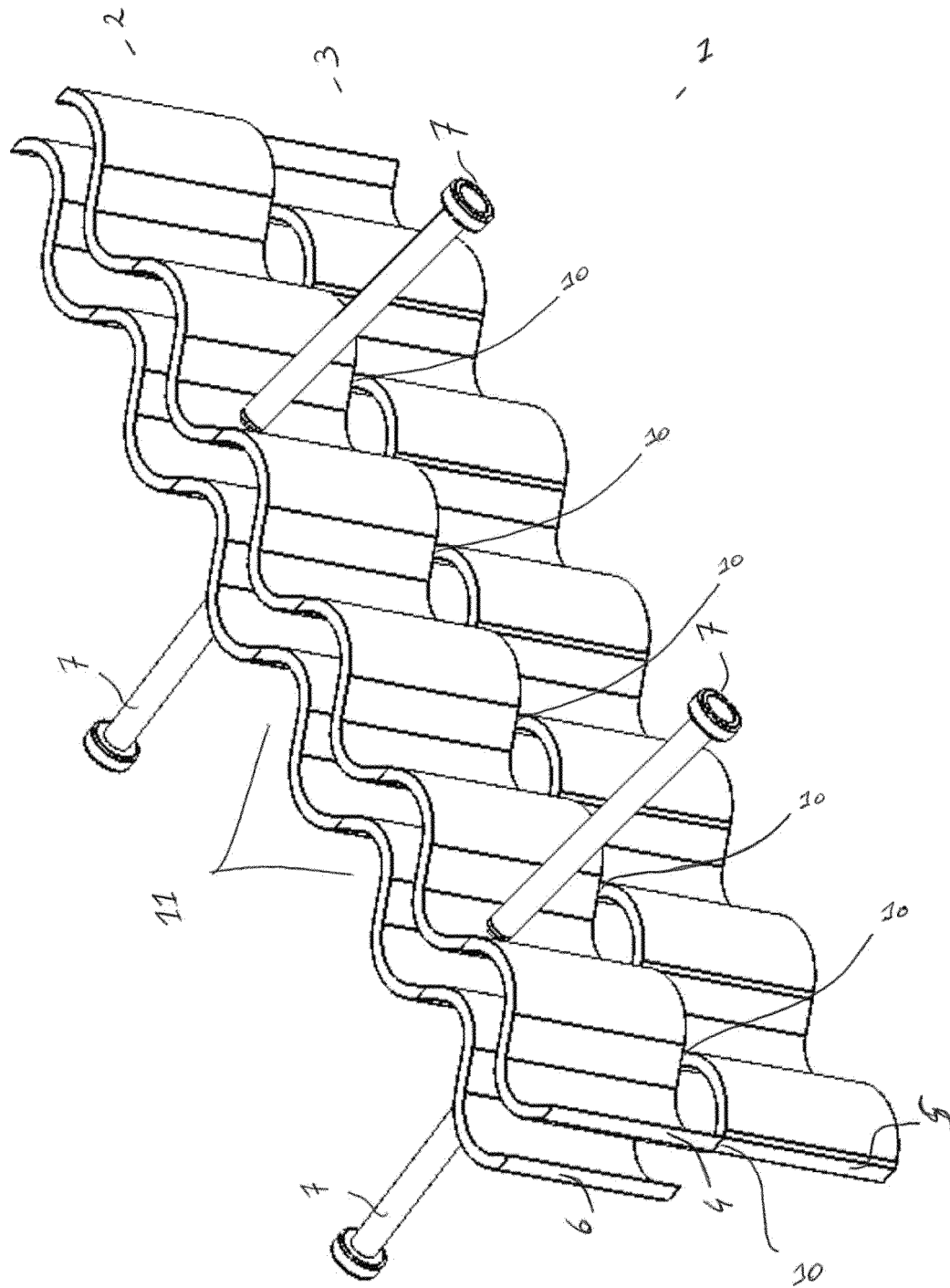




Figure 2

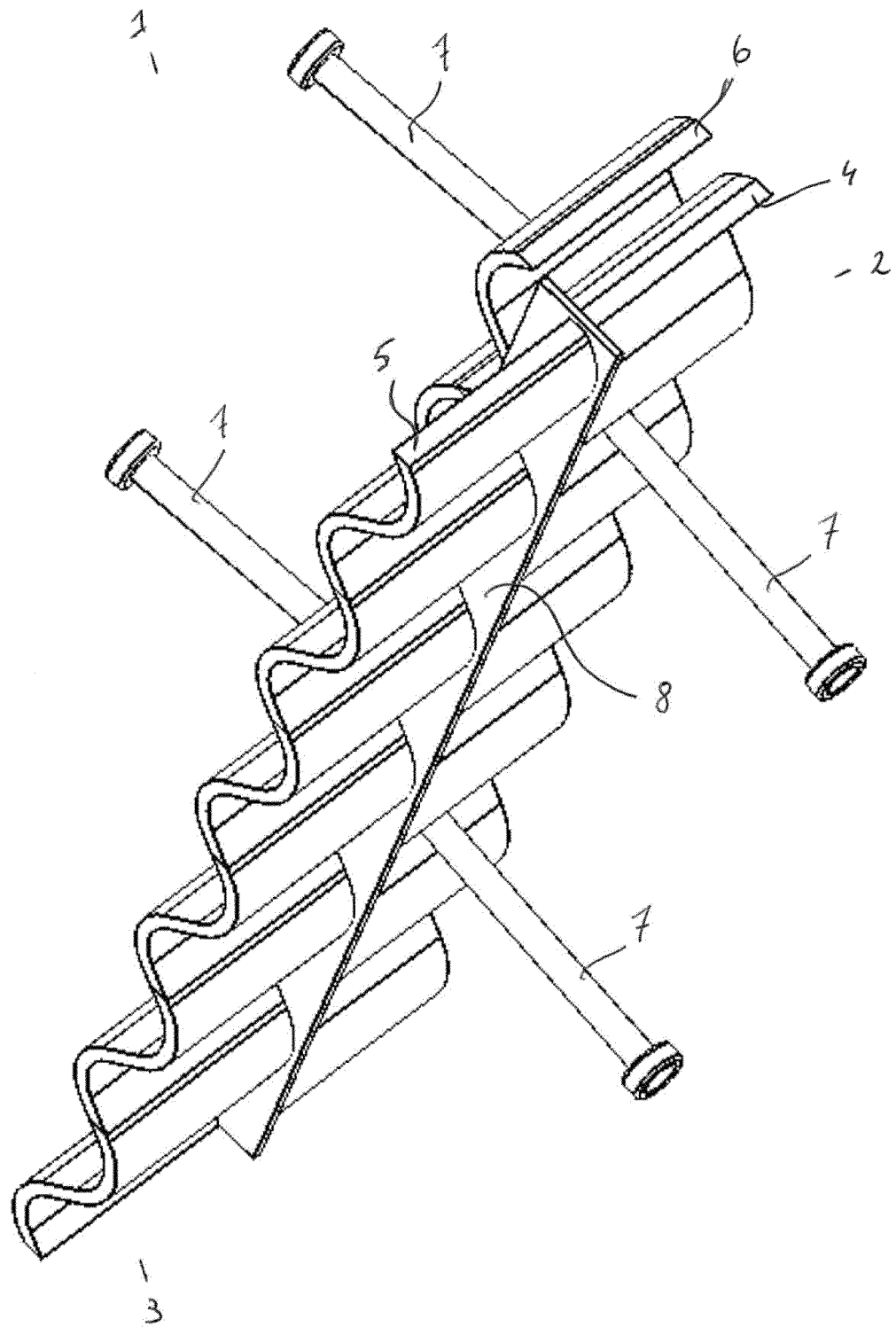


Figure 3

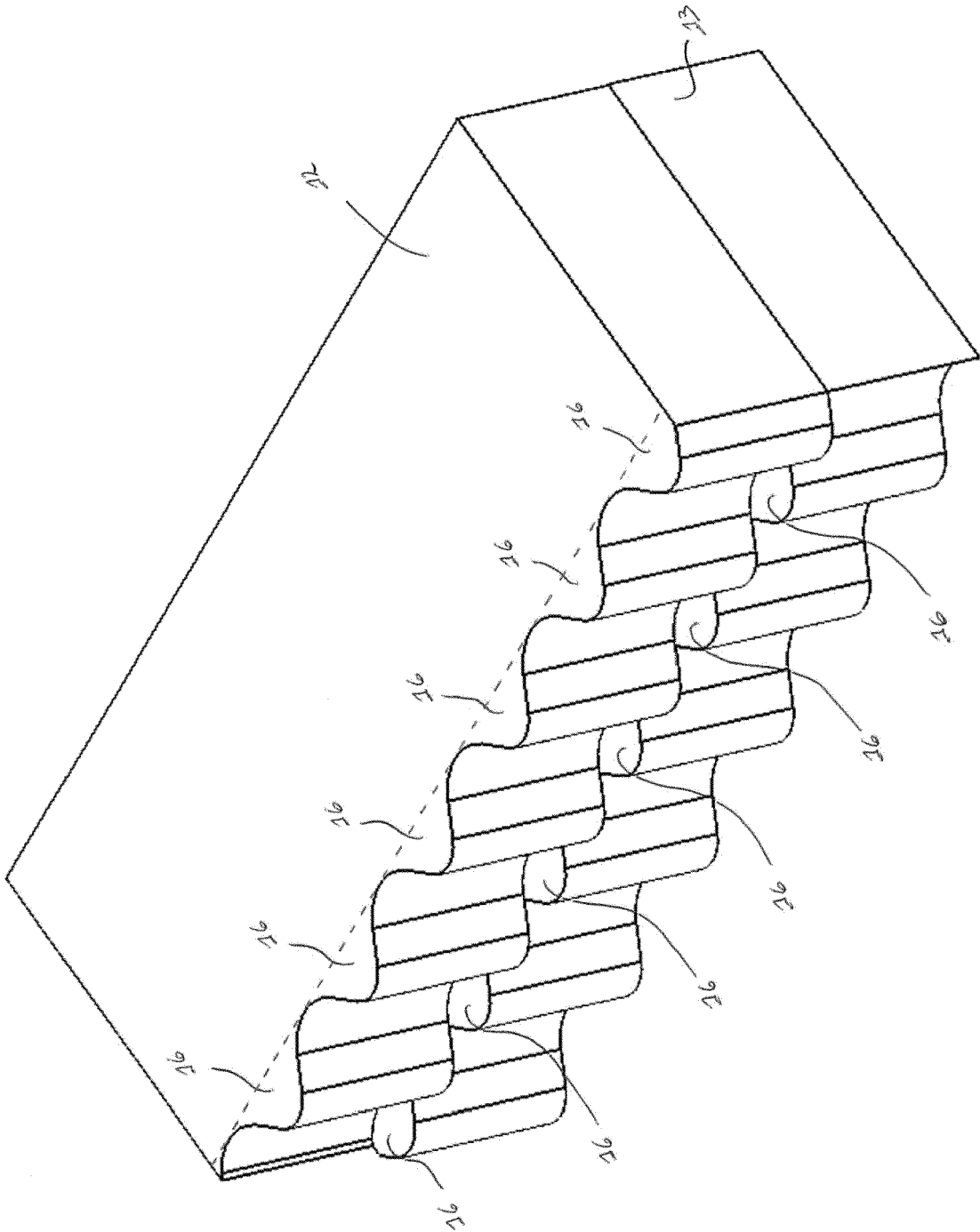


Figure 4

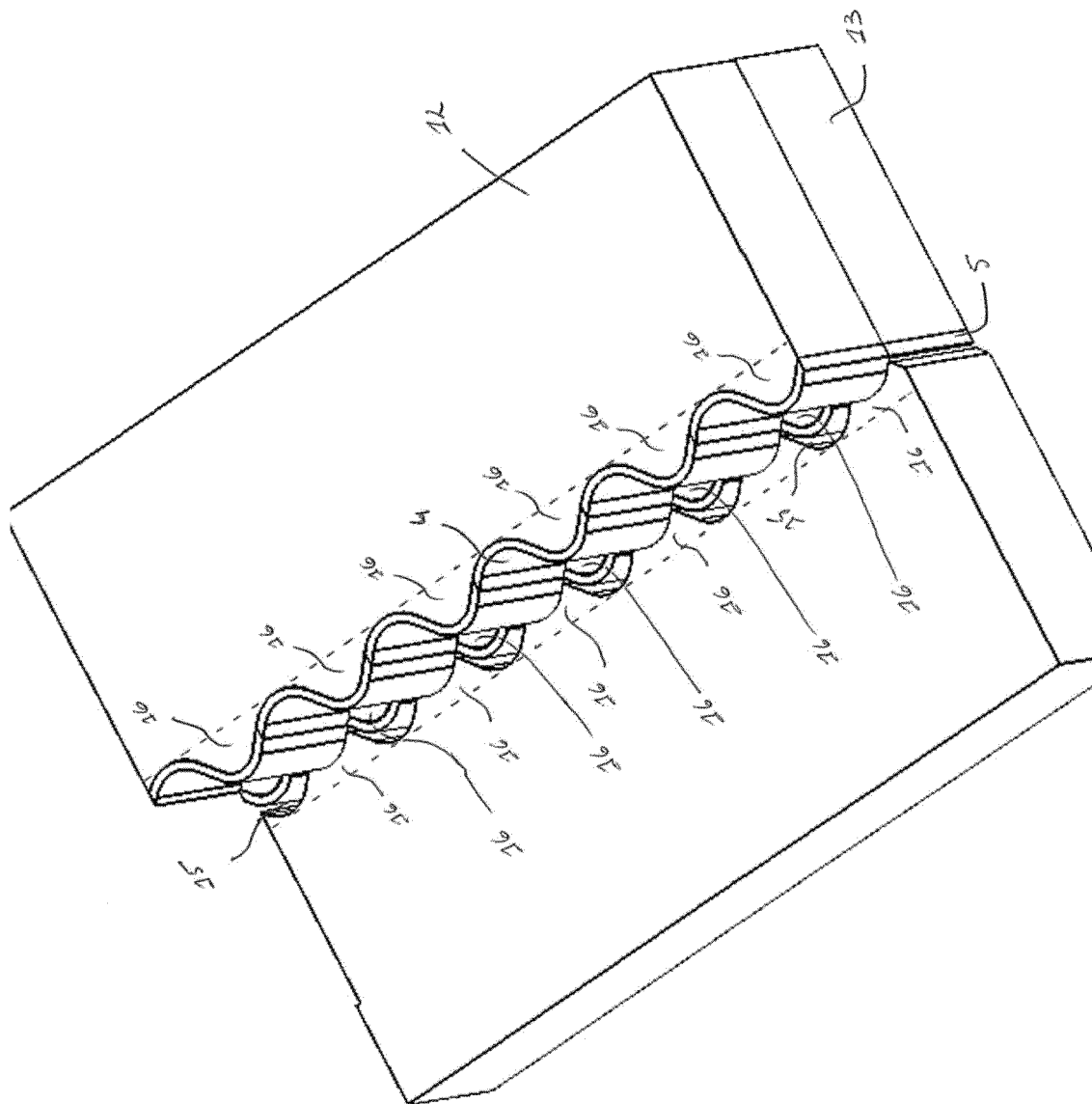


Figure 5

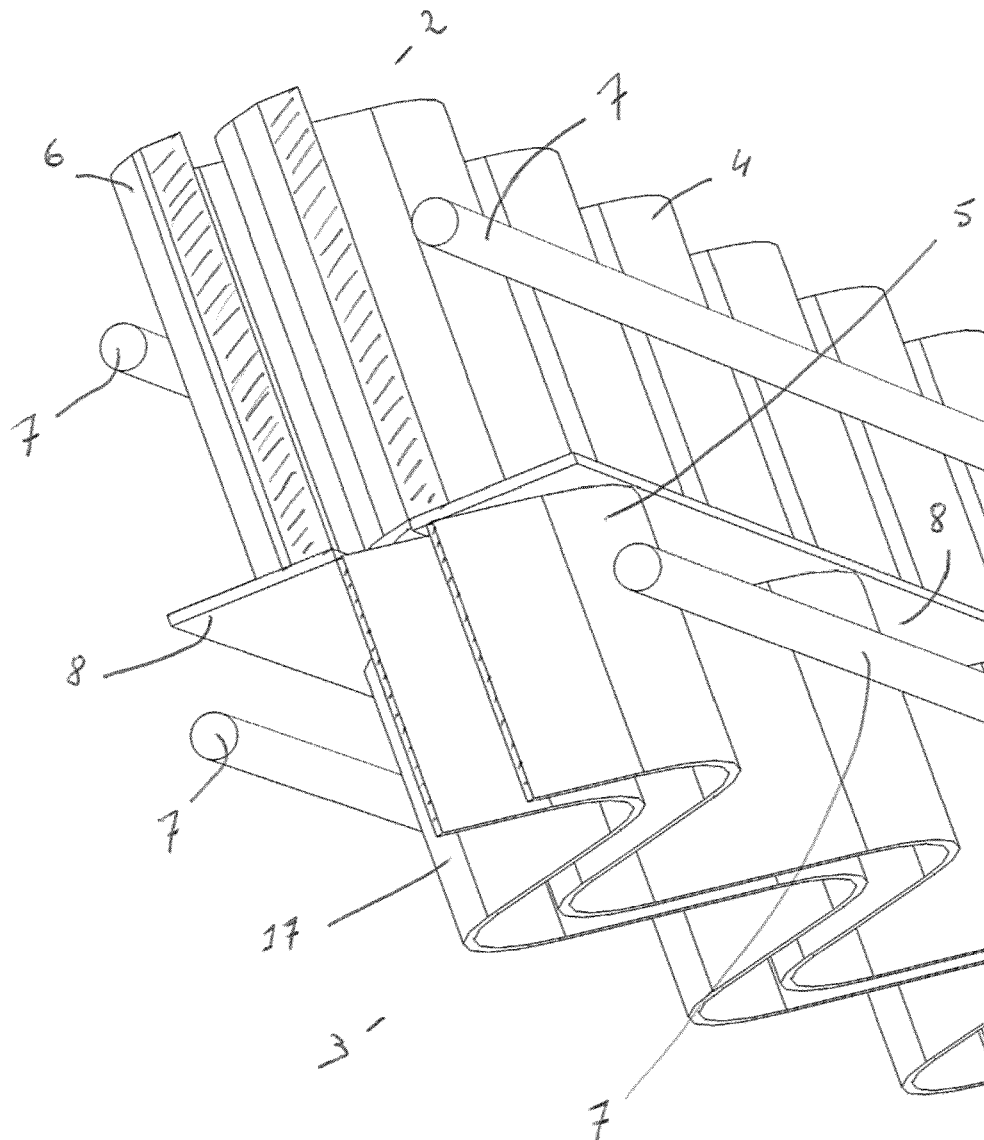




Figure 6b

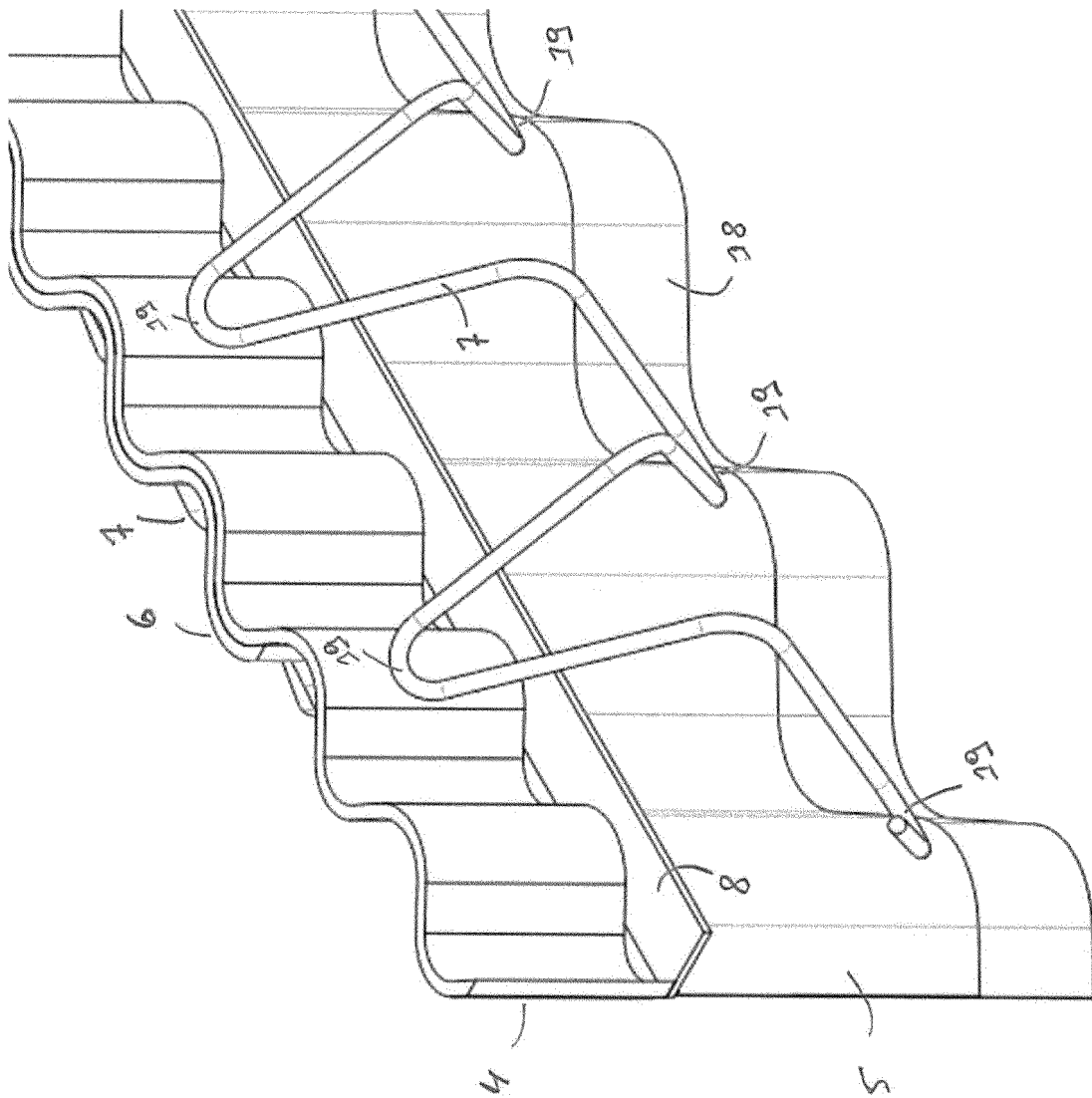
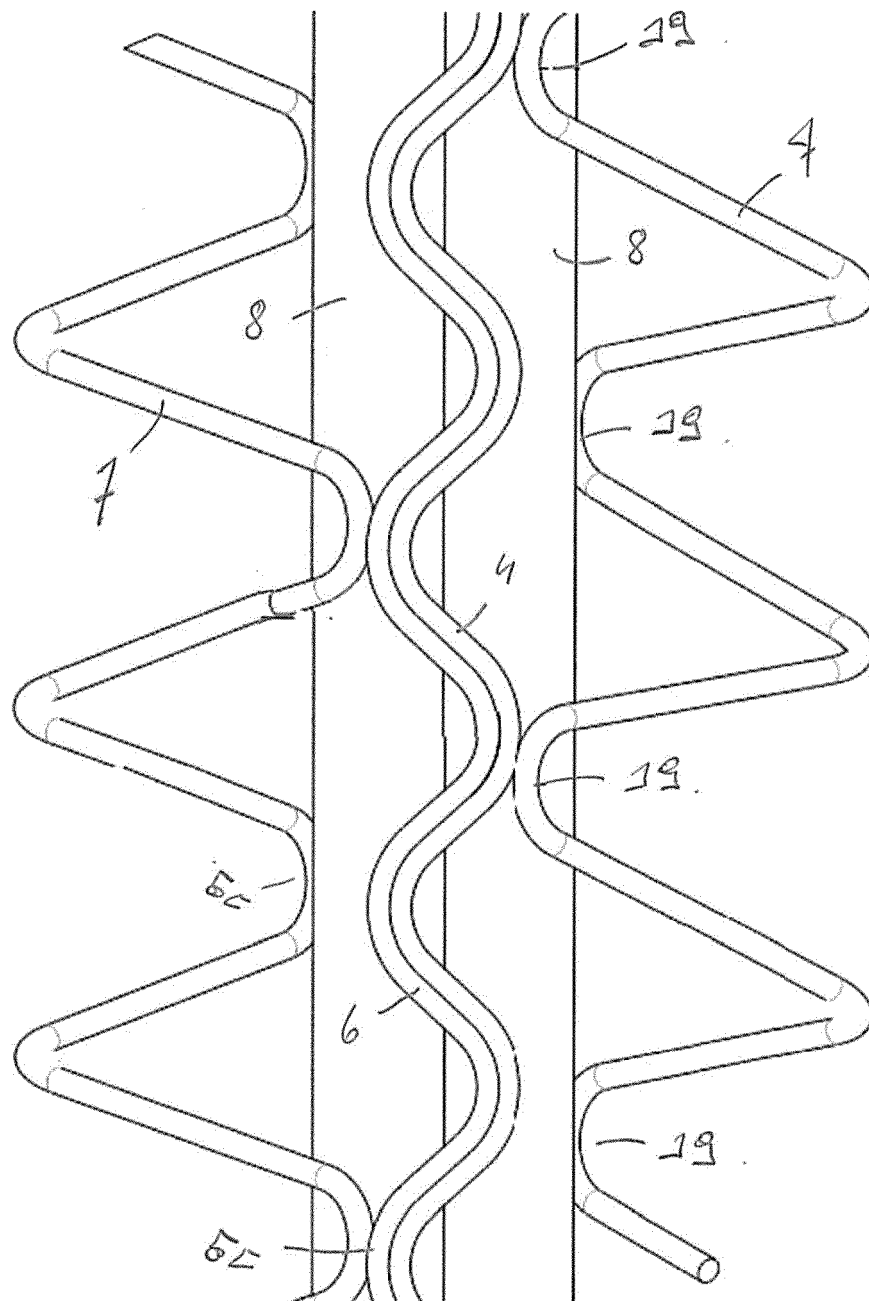


Figure 6c



**REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION**

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